

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MY, UR

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER (CAT) TALKS,
BRIEFING

1. ON AUGUST 18, ACDA BRIEFED CHARGE KARIM OF EMBASSY OF
MALAYSIA ON STATUS US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER
(CAT) TALKS, WITH EA/TIMBS REP ATTENDING.

2. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, TEXT OF TALKING POINTS USED
AT BRIEFING FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT

A. BACKGROUND. THE U.S. AND SOVIETS HAVE MET THREE TIMES
TO DISCUSS CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT. A SUBSTANTIVE
DIALOGUE REALLY BEGAN ONLY IN MAY, AFTER WHICH THE SIDES
ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH THEY AGREED (1) THAT THE
PROBLEM OF LIMITING ARMS TRANSFERS WAS URGENT AND (2) TO
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HOLD REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO EXPLORE CONCRETE
MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN.

-- IN MAY THE SSOD ADOPTED A PROGRAM OF ACTION CALLING FOR
CONSULTATIONS AMONG SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS ON LIMITING
ARMS TRANSFERS. US-SOVIET BILATERAL MEETINGS REPRESENT AN
ATTEMPT TO BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THAT UN MANDATE.

-- EVENTS IN LATIN AMERICA, SUCH AS THE JUNE 22 DECLARATION BY THE EIGHT SIGNATORIES OF THE 1974 DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO CALLING FOR A LATIN AMERICAN AGREEMENT LIMITING CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS OF MEXICO TOWARD THE SAME END, ALSO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORK OF RESTRAINING ARMS TRANSFERS.

B. OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRAINT

THE U.S. OUTLINED A FRAMEWORK OF RESTRAINT TO THE SOVIETS, AS A WAY OF FOCUSING THE DELIBERATIONS. THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS.

1. POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA

-- THESE CRITERIA WOULD BE BASED ON THE UN CHARTER, UN RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DOCUMENTS.

-- THEY SHOULD SERVE TWO PURPOSES: (1) IDENTIFYING LEGAL CONSTRAINTS ON ARMS TRANSFERS; AND (2) IDENTIFYING RELEVANT POLITICAL FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING ARMS TRANSFER DECISIONS.

-- A GOOD BASIS EXISTS FOR THE ELABORATION OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE.

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2. MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA

-- COMMONLY AGREED MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA TO SET BOUNDARIES ON THE TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF WEAPONS TO BE PROVIDED.

-- THESE CRITERIA ARE EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA; AND AGREEMENT ON BOTH TYPES OF CRITERIA IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO HAVE A COHERENT AND COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRAINT.

3. REGIONAL APPLICATION

-- ARRANGEMENTS TO APPLY CRITERIA IN REGIONAL CONTEXTS.

-- IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO CRITERIA THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE GENERAL AND ABSTRACT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST, SUBJECT TO MANY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS.

C. INTERIM RESTRAINT REGIME

-- BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT, IN ADVANCE OF FINAL AGREEMENT ON CRITERIA, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH INTERIM RESTRAINT

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIFIC REGIONS.

-- A BASIS WAS LAID THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT CONSIST OF LISTS OF WEAPONS TO BE RESTRAINED.

-- BOTH SIDES AGREED IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ANY REGION OR SUB-REGION OF THE WORLD, PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT ARTIFICIALLY CONTRIVED.

D. ROLE OF OTHER SUPPLIERS/RECIPIENTS

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-- BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS IN DEVELOPING AND/OR SUPPORTING ANY RESTRAINT REGIME.

-- BOTH SIDES WERE HOPEFUL THAT OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS WOULD FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO SUPPORT ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT.

-- WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS OUR POSITION THAT THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF RECIPIENTS MUST BE MET.

E. ASSESSMENT OF ROUND III AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

-- THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT TOWARD A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF GENERAL GUIDELINES OR CRITERIA FOR RESTRAINT IN ARMS TRANSFERS.

-- THE SOVIETS AGAIN APPEARED TO TAKE THESE DISCUSSIONS SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THE NEXT ROUND -- TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER TO ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO UNDERTAKE THOROUGH PREPARATIONS -- WILL PROVIDE A TEST OF THE PROSPECTS FOR NEAR-TERM SUCCESS OF CAT. END TEXT.

3. KARIM WAS INTERESTED IN THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE TALKS AND WAS INFORMED THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN SERIOUS AND BUSINESS-LIKE AND THAT MEETINGS HAD BEEN FREE OF POLEMICS. KARIM ASKED WHETHER WE EXPECTED SPECIFIC SOVIET PROPOSALS AND WAS TOLD THAT THE NEXT ROUND WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN THAT REGARD. HE ASKED WHETHER OTHER SUPPLIERS WERE INVOLVED AND WAS TOLD THEY HAD BEEN KEPT INFORMED; THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM; THAT WE REALIZE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN RESTRAINT WILL BE IMPORTANT.

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4. KARIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CAT. BRIEFING OFFICER SAID USG WAS PLEASED TO HEAR HIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST. KARIM ASKED FOR ARMS TRANSFER

PUBLICATIONS AND WAS GIVEN A COPY OF ACDA'S LATEST WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURES (1967-76).

5. FYI: ALL OTHER ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES RECEIVED SIMILAR BRIEFING. CHRISTOPHER

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